

Indian Pavilion Expo' 67

(Editor's Note: The following poem, written by Duke Redbird, an Indian of the Saugeen Indian Reserve in Ontario, was read by the author during the recent formal unveiling of a scale model of the Pavilion in Ottawa.)

May your form reflect
The symmetry of our wigwams and our teepees
May your structure incorporate
The strength of our long houses both East and West
and may your walls create
The warmth of our fires
That have burned a hundred thousand years.

May your colors express
The pageantry of our ceremonies
May your tapestries weave
The story of our Great Men both Then and Now.
May your fabrics portray
The contrasts of our culture
That has lived a hundred thousand years.

May your furnishings tell
The simplicity of our wants and needs
May your accoutrements spell
The multiplicity of our tongues both Old and New
May your designs whisper
The tale of our legends
That have been told a hundred thousand years.

May your fixtures cast
The light of our learning
May your shadows project
The mystery and depth of our religion Remembered and
Forgotten
May your fountains recall
The bubble of our laughter and the silence of our tears
That echo across a hundred thousand years.

May your floor combine
The past and the future of our people
May your carpets spin
The mosaic of our complexities both common and unusual
May your foundation exhibit
The strength of our wisdom and knowledge
For we have waited a hundred thousand years.

-DUKE REDBIRD